

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 26 with the following rewritten paragraph.

Thus, it is possible to accurately adjust the signal power level at the input of the transceiver card using the system included in the present invention. It is also possible, within the scope of the invention, to perform the above-described method at a location that is remote to the network element being adjusted. For example, the network elements may communicate with each other via a signaling channel that is incorporated into the transmissions from network element to network element. For example, the signaling channel may be incorporated into the data received at input 204 as shown at 236, and the power detector may be coupled to the local network-~~218~~ 216 as shown at 238. At each network element, information on the local network may be placed on the signaling channel. Thus, it is possible that the detector 220 output values and the local card parameters 218 at one network element, are transmitted via the signaling channel 236, to another network element or network entity, such as a central network processor. It is also possible to transmit information to the network element via the signaling channel from the

other network entity. For example, VOA control parameters can be transmitted via the signaling channel to a specific VOA in a specific network element. Therefore, using the signaling channel 236, it is possible to remotely operate the processing system 226 and the display 228, and still operate the system as described herein. In such a case, the signaling channel 236 is used to carry information between the network element and the remotely located processing system. It will be understood that the signaling information may be carried in-band, interspersed with payload traffic, or out-of-band on a dedicated signaling channel line. Thus, it is not necessary for a network operator or technician to be physically present at each network element to perform one or more embodiments included in the present invention.